



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

Floor Statement

Rep. Anh “Joseph” Cao

Recognizing “Queen of Creole Cuisine” Leah Chase in Honor of Black History Month

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. / Madam Speaker

I rise today in honor of Black History Month to recognize Ms. Leah Chase. Known as the “Queen of Creole Cuisine”, Ms. Chase is a chef, a television host, a cultural ambassador, and the owner of the famous Louisiana landmark *Dooky Chase* restaurant. Dooky Chase is located in the historic Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans and was immortalized in the television show “Frank’s Place”.

But, it was established as a spiritual, cultural, and historic landmark long before television producers came knocking. During the 1960’s, Dooky Chase was a meeting place for civil rights activists and NAACP members coming from all around the region. And, during segregation, notable African American artists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Lena Horne dined there.

When Hurricane Katrina flooded the restaurant, forcing it to close its doors for the first time since 1941, Mrs. Chase could have left, leaving behind all of the history and prominence of this historic spot.

But, she returned, rebuilt, and re-opened to serve, nourish, and inspire the bodies and souls future generations by its critical contribution to African-American history and the history of this great nation.

Today, I am proud to recognize Leah Chase for continuing to feed the soul of New Orleans and her guests and for her unwavering commitment to the recovery of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.